



ST. LANDRY



PARISH

“...the health of a community is a shared responsibility of many entities, organizations and interests in the community, including health services delivery organizations, public health agencies, other public and private entities and the people of a community.”

– Institute of Medicine. 1996. *Healthy Communities: New Partnerships for the Future of Public Health*. National Academy Press. p. 12



ST. LANDRY
PARISH

St. Landry Parish

**St. Landry Parish
Tourist Commission**
P.O. Box 1415
Opelousas, LA 70570-
1415
337-948-8004
800-424-5442

**Regional Office of
Public Health**
Larry Richard
Regional Administrator
Acadian Regional
Office
Brandywine III, Ste.
100
825 Kaliste Saloom Rd.
Lafayette, LA 70508
337-262-5311
337-262-5237 fax

History¹

St. Landry was established on April 10, 1805. It was named after St. Landry, the saint who founded the Hotel Dieu in Paris in the sixth century. Most of the inhabitants are descendants of the Acadians, but many French (some who came late in the 1600s), English, Scotch-Irish, and Germans later settled in the area, forming a potpourri of Americana. The citizens of the parish have preserved many of the early customs, such as the fais-do-do (lively dancing in the streets). The Louisiana Yambilee Festival is an annual fall event.

Culture and Recreation³

From the Liberty Theatre in Eunice, hosting the best Cajun and Zydeco music, to the Academy of Sacred Heart in Grand Coteau, to the Atchafalaya gateway towns of Krotz Springs and Melville, St. Landry parish captures the spirit of the people of Acadiana. Three historic districts, in Grand Coteau, Washington and Opelousas, preserve the past. Washington, once the largest steamboat port between New Orleans and St. Louis, preserves its 19th-century architecture and character and offers an antique mall and a number antique shops. Grand Coteau features two of the nation's oldest religious institutions. Opelousas served as the Confederate capital of Louisiana and Jim Bowie spent his boyhood here. Many weekend festivals are held throughout the parish.



Parish Seat¹ Opelousas¹

Major Cities (over 5,000 population)²

Opelousas	
1990	18,151
1997 (estimate)	19,764
Eunice	
1990	10,930
1997 (estimate)	11,258

Parish Population²

1990	80,331
1997 (estimate)	82,705

Breakdown of 1996 population (estimates)⁶



White	57%
African American	43%
Other	0%
Male	48%
Female	52%
Population age 0-4	8%
Populations age 65 & over	13%

Geography and Statistics²

Average elevation	30 ft.
Land area in square miles	928.7
Water area in square miles ⁴	10.2

Climate²

Average temperatures	
Annual	70°
January	55°
July	83°
Annual average rainfall	57.2 in.

Labor Force (1995)¹

Civilian	30,600
Employed	27,800
Unemployed	2,810
Unemployment	9.2%

Agriculture¹

Soybeans, beef cattle, rice, yams, cotton, dairy farming and corn; diversified manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade.

Colleges/Universities²

(within one hour commute)

Baton Rouge

Louisiana State University; Southern University

Eunice

Louisiana State University

Lafayette

University of Southwestern Louisiana

Public Libraries⁵ 2

Educational Attainment (1990)⁷

Less than 5th grade	11.0%
High school graduate or higher	55.3%
Some college or higher	22.8%
Bachelor's degree or higher	9.7%

Major Employers (Products) and Number of Employees²

Private Employers

Fruit of the Loom (T-Shirts)	650
Martco Partnership (Lumber/Hardwood/Ties)	350
Basis Refining (Gasoline/Diesel Fuel)	242

Public Employers

St. Landry Parish School Board System (Education)	2,400
Opelousas General Hospital (Medical)	570
Columbia Doctors Hospital (Medical)	201

Poverty and Income

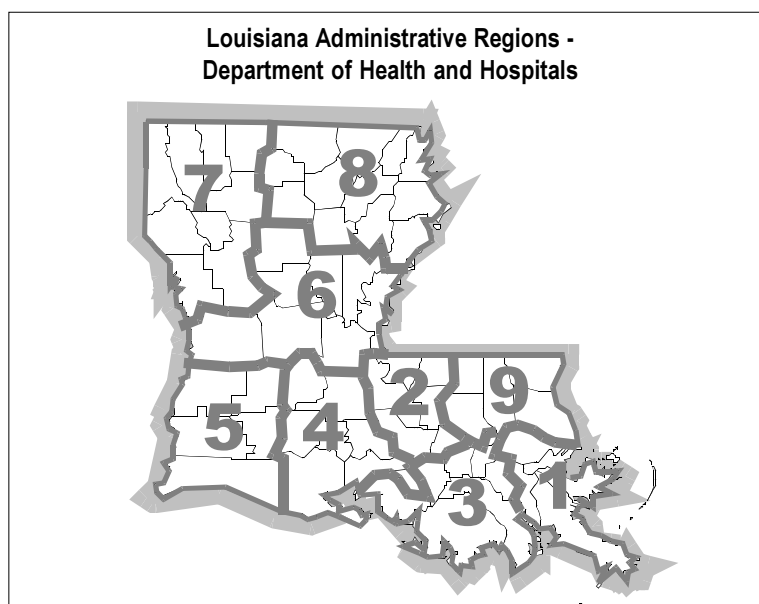
Persons in poverty (1995) ⁷	30.1%
Children under age 18 in poverty ⁷	42.5%
Per capita income (1996) ⁸	\$16,548



**ST. LANDRY
PARISH**

References

- ¹ Louisiana Almanac. 1997. Louisiana Almanac, Pelican Press. Gretna, LA
- ² Louisiana Department of Economic Development. 1999. Louisiana Overview. keyword: overview <http://lled.state.la.us>
- ³ Louisiana Office of Tourism. 1998. keywords: regional information <http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism.htm>
- ⁴ Police Jury Association of Louisiana. <http://www.lpgov.org/>
- ⁵ State Library of Louisiana. keyword: directories <http://smt.state.lib.la.us/>
- ⁶ U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. Population Estimates. 1998. keywords: parish name <http://www.census.gov/datamap/www/22.html>
- ⁷ U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. keywords: people, poverty, small area income and poverty estimates <http://www.census.gov>
- ⁸ U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration. 1999. keywords: economics and statistical administration <http://www.doc.gov>



Region 7

Bienville
Bossier
Caddo
Claiborne
DeSoto
Natchitoches
Red River
Sabine
Webster

Region 8

Caldwell
East Carroll
Franklin
Jackson
Lincoln
Madison
Morehouse
Ouachita
Richland
Tensas
Union
West Carroll

Region 9

Livingston
St. Helena
St. Tammany
Tangipahoa
Washington

Region 1

Jefferson
Orleans
Plaquemines
St. Bernard

Region 2

Ascension
East Baton Rouge
East Feliciana
Iberville
Pointe Coupee
West Baton Rouge
West Feliciana

Region 3

Assumption
Lafourche
St. Charles
St. James
St. John
St. Mary
Terrebonne

Region 4

Acadia
Evangeline
Iberia
Lafayette
St. Landry
St. Martin
Vermilion

Region 5

Allen
Beauregard
Calcasieu
Cameron
Jefferson Davis

Region 6

Avoyelles
Catahoula
Concordia
Grant
LaSalle
Rapides
Vernon
Winn